

DAVIS-COLES COUNTY
DOCUMENTS

DRAWER 12

COLES COUNTY

71-2009.085.10212

Illinois Coles County

Documents

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Aug. 7, 1941

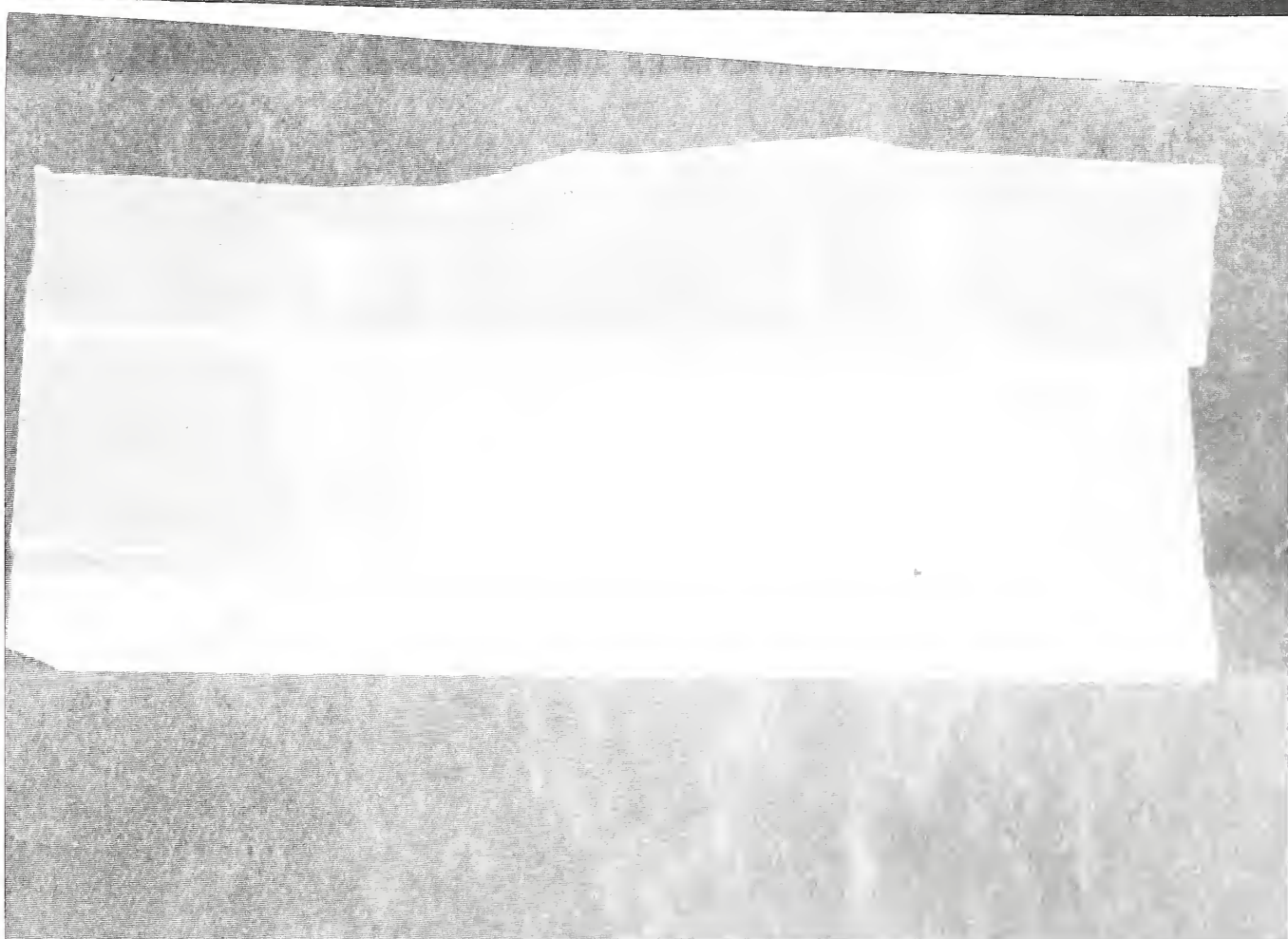
Dear Dr. Warren- This might interest you- Squire Hall, William Hanks, J B (Bosier) Brown, Joseph Stevens and Jas Johnson who built the Log(Lincoln) Court House also signed it. Lincoln was NOT a qualified voter .

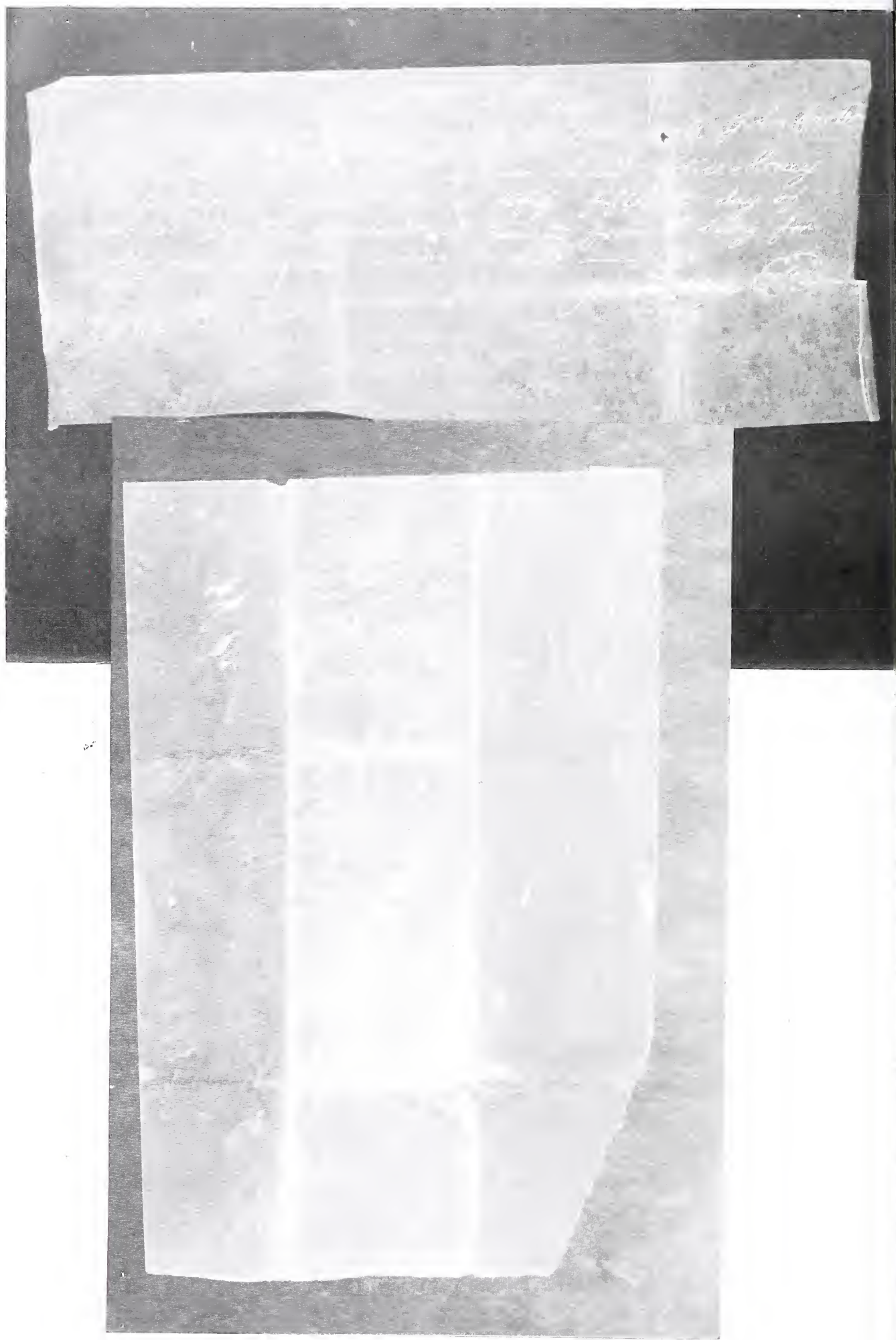
Edwin David Davis

7 Decatur Ill.

Ps- The L in Lincoln seems unusual. E D

My dear Mr. B
I have just received your letter of the 12th
and am very sorry to hear that
you are not well. I hope you will
soon be better. I am very
sincerely yours
J. B. Barber





August 8, 1941

Mr. Edwin David Davis
R. R. #7
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you very much for the clippings which you enclosed and we appreciate your thoughtfulness in making the enclosure available. You are correct in stating that it is probably the earliest signature of Lincoln on an official document. This should make it very valuable and it should be carefully preserved.

Very truly yours,

LAW:VW
L.A. Warren

Director

August 14, 1941

Mr. Edwin David Davis
R.R. No. 7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis:

Since writing to you in appreciation for the clipping which you sent I have wondered if it would be possible for you to have the entire document which you mentioned containing the signature of Abraham Lincoln photographed or photostated. We will be very glad indeed to pay for such work where you do not have the complete document already photographed. We would indeed be glad to have the entire manuscript.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:EB

August 19, 1941

Mr. Edwin David Davis
R.R. No. 7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis:

I cannot tell you how thankful I am for the photostat copy which you made available to me and I am not only returning it but sending along also two extra copies which I thought possibly you might wish to have.

It appears to me that your discovery was of enough interest to use in one of the current issues of Lincoln Lore and if you need extra copies of this Lincoln Lore we will be very happy indeed to supply them.

When you anticipate having your history of Macon County ready we will indeed be pleased to have a copy when it is available.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
Encs.

Director

4
Nov. 6, 1841- Dear Dr. Warren- Thank you for the Lincoln Lores.

The copy of the estray paper sent you was **not** from a book but from the original paper found among the individual estray papers in a folder in a box containing the estray papers from 1829 on. A clerk in the office noticed at once that the first half and the name A Lincoln was in exactly the same shade of very black ink. I don't remember the shade of ink used by John W. Reed.

The part by the J P- P D Williams is in an entirely different shade of ink- dull like old or poor ink. The paper was folded several times with the words - Return or notice of Estray taken up by J B Brown 1830. on the outer fold. The outside was discolored as even the copy shows but the inside folds were clean as if it had not been unfolded for the 110 years plus.

The cashier of the Milligan Bank carefully examined both Lincoln papers word by word and was of the opinion that A Lincoln signed both also that the first half of the estray paper was also in his handwriting. The Lincoln Lore uses the term **stripe**. The cashier debated this but on reading the words of P D Williams said it was" and a **snip** in her face." Meaning a place that looked like a snip had been cut by a shears. Miss Clara Baker of the Library suggested something like a cowlick. I have seen horses with a cowlick and also a thin place that the hair seems to curl away from- some men have such a place also cowlicks on their heads.

The cashier referred to the dictionary also about the word hough- the word used around here is generally hock. It seems to me that one of Lincoln's traits was the **"exact"** way in which he chose the words to express the shade of meaning he wished to convey. Like Tommy in one of the Scotch novels by Barre - Tommy lost a scholarship because he was trying to think of the exact word to describe the number of people in the Kirk. He got the word after the contest was over. If I had thought more about Lincoln's "exact" use of words I might not have made the mistake I fear I made in "Lincoln and Macon Co. 1830-1831" on page 72.

I said the Lincoln Caravan camped for the night in Lincoln Square in 1830.

Whitney in Life on the Circuit-quotes Lincoln as saying they **"paused"**.

Another writer says that Lincoln spent the night before the Republican Convention

of 1856 in Decatur and pointed the exact spot that they "hitched" their team while asking about the country. Miss Tarbell, if I remember right in her "Footsteps of Lincoln" also says they camped in the square, or it may be it was Barton. Miss Richmond in her History of Macon Co. says I do not know on what authority ~~that~~ that they camped outside of town. It is the word "paused" that shakes my opinion. The stray paper uses the words "Given under hand this 16th day of December 1830.

A Lincoln.

This means to me that he wrote and signed it.

Hopeing you will examine the paper again and come to the same ~~opiniennas~~ opinion as the cashier.

Edwin D Davis

Edwin D. Davis

November 12, 1941

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
R.F.D. #7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your letter which makes more clearly the status of the documents which you discovered and I am happy to know that it is on a separate sheet of paper although the shape of it may be rather it might be copied in a book. I would also take occasion to make note of the change in the word "stripe" to the word "snip" which does seem quite logical. We are pleased to observe that you are continuing your research and I would not be surprised if other very interesting Lincoln papers might turn up.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

Nov 23, 1941 Dear Dr Warren- Some years ago through the kindness of the Census Bureau at Washington and the Hon. Charles Adkins a copy of the 1830 census of the Lincoln and some other families of Macon Co. Ill. was sent to me.

Lincoln Family

Free white male 1 from 50-60.

 2 " 20-30

Free white female 1 " 40-50.

The Real Lincoln Weik page 152---- Lincoln is quoted-" that when his father married his second wife she had a son about his own age- John D Johnson.

Weik-page between 32-33- page from Lincoln Family Bible -John D Johnson son of Darnial----- born May----- 1810 or it looks like that.

A Lincoln, Squire Hanks and John D Johnson were **not** qualified voters on the 26 of May 1830 as they had not lived here 6 months and J D Johnson it seems then only 20 years old.

Weik page 144-145- Lincoln- "He had one peculiarity: frequently at the end of a sentence or paragraph using a short dash to indicate a full stop instead of the conventional period." The Lincoln Lore copy shows 3 such marks dimly- My other copy shows them plainer- 4 marks. I think the original copy is even plainer. Note that the first half by Lincoln the word hough twice. In the second half it is hoof indicating a different scribe.

In the 6 or more estray papers sworn to before Philip D Williams and examined by different men and woman in the Court House all thought that the last half was by Philip D Williams. One estray paper was fine. Dated June 19 1830. Estray taken up by Abraham Handline- appraised by Hosea J Armstrong and Thomas Cole-much like those on the petition. The Philip D Williams was as near alike as I ever saw 2 names. But he wrote Abraham instead of Abram- tho they looked alike. I have found all the names on the petition in the county records, most of them many times and all at least twice but John Grimsley and Moses Hand. William C Hall voted in the Marquis Pricent on Aug 7 1837. William C Hall got 1 vote for constable on Sep 30 1837.

William Hall Sr started Court House in Shelbyville-James W Jonnson finished it and built the jail- James Madison Johnson was living in Decatur and took up an astray in 1840. James H Johnson who I think built the Macon Co. Log Court House was in Pike Co. Ill. in 1836- that seems to settle whether it was James W or James H Johnson built the Court House.

Philip D Williams was named Grand Juror and Thomas Lamb Petit Jury in Shelby Co before Macon Co. was formed. PD Williams was named judge of electin in Dis 2 to be held at Leonard Stevens. William Hall Sr. was judge in Dis. 1.

Charles Lewis burnt the brick for John Hanks' brick House.

David Millers' wife Mary Y Braden-Wheeler-Miller took up 3 estrays through the years-living on Nov 15, 1871 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Decatur. One of her decendents made Mr Fay at the Lincoln Tomb believe that she was the one that wove cloth in 1830 for Lincoln. This story is in Lincoln traveled this Way-Homes p 47-48.

Estray taken up by Charles Hanks Dec 16, 1831 appraised by William Hanks Sr. and William Miller Sr-the husband of Nancy Miller the real weaver as you told once in a Lincoln Lore and sent me a copy of a page from Howells'-Lincoln.

Jonathan B Brown voted against my grandfather David Davis for Comm. of Macon Co. on April 9 1831. Jonathan Brown voted for him for Treasurer of the county on Aug 7 1837. Jonathan B Brown and Jonathan Brown voted in Decatur in 1839 or 1840. John Reed voted for him both times as did the Hanks men except William Hanks Jr voted for William Webb in 1837. Jackson Hanks voted for David Davis in 1837.

Edwin David Davis

7 Decatur Ill

East Junction U S 36-State 121.

Edwin D Davis

PS I have sent a number of letters by mistake with a 1 cent stamp I think one was to you
E. D

November 28, 1941

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
R. R. #7
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

I was indeed glad to have your letter with further information about the Lincoln family and also a confirmation with respect to the original Lincoln writing which I think possibly confirms your viewpoint with respect to the writing.

John D. Johnson, the son of Sally Bush Johnson served as a clerk in an election in Cole County, the December term, 1832. This possibly might bare on the question as to his age. Apparently he wrote a very good hand or he would not have been called upon to serve as an election clerk. If it was not a good hand at least it was clear enough so they could make out who won the election.

I hope you will continue your research and eventually find it convenient to get over into Cole County and do some work there.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

March 29, 1942.

Dear Mr. Warren.- Under separate cover is a copy of an old note by John Hanks in 1823-it must have been while he lived with or near the Lincolns in Spencer County, Indiana, and maybe for the tract of land John Hanks bought near the Lincolns. Nelson-History of Macon County Vol. 2 p213

John Carter brought suit -it was on the docket of the September Term 1833.

Logan and May for John Carter and Dummer and Stewart for John Hanks.

I am not shure of the name Dummer as it was badly written.

It came before the Court an agreed case. John Hanks was to pay 1 cent and costs.

The note and letter of John Carter will tell the rest.

Carter was like me he could not spell- not- onte-note.

I was in Springfield last week and had Mr. Wetherbee of the Archive Building, look for the petition sent to Vandalia asking for a new county-that was named Macon, in December 1828. John Hanks, Joseph Hanks, Charles Hanks, William Hanks, Milliam Miller, Jonithan B Brown, Joseph Stevens, Seth Sinnett, P D Williams, Thomas Cowin, Sam B Dewees, S R Sheppard, David Miller, James Sanders and others signed it.. While in Springfield I looked up Elizabeth Hanks sister of John Hanks. Reason Ray was born in Maryland, moved to Kentucky and married (first) Sarah Walten. They had 4 or 5? children. He moved to Sangamon County, Ill. in 1823. He married Elizabeth Hanks about 1825. He must have gone back to Ky. to get her like Thomas Lincoln and John Hanks. 3 old widowers from here also went back to Ky. for their second wives.

Reason Ray owned 320 A in Sangamon County- in Sec. 35 and 36-T 16 N, R 6 W of 3 P M at the time of his death on August 22, 1833. His coffin cost \$ 4.00.

Elizabeth Ray and her father William Hanks Sr. signed a paper-by mark- relinquishment of their rights to administer the estate. At a 2 days sale on Oct. 8 and 9 1833, Elizabeth Ray among other things bid in a flax wheel and flax.

William Hanks bought a white horse for \$25.00 that had been appraised at \$15.00.

Joseph Hanks brought in a bill of \$7.50 for hewing 4 days at .75 cents a day and gathering corn. He took part of his pay in 12 bu. of corn at \$.50 a bu.

J. R. Callaman-bill- schooling \$12.00

Reason Ray and Elizabeth Ray children were.

1- Minerva-born -Sep. 19, 1826.

2-John W. - born in 1828 or 1829.

3- Seely (Celia) born Dec. 16, 1830.

4- Reason L.- born Dec. 25, 1831.

5- Elizabeth- Aug. 6, 1833.

William Hanks Sr. went on her bond as guardean.

Elizabeth Ray married (second) Samuel Dillon on July 4, 1837.

She lived on Spring Creek.

The Lincoln Lore of (I think) June 13, 1938 said that Elizabeth Hanks married Jubel Meador- where did you get that and could she have married 3 times.

I couldnt find when Dillon died.

Edwin D Davis.

7 Decatur, Illinois.

East Junction of U S 36-State 121.

P S- I found a list of the road hands in 1837 calling -John I Hanks and James G Hanks- this was new to me.

On the back of on paper for that District H M Goran-the clerk says" you will please appoint James Hanks, Russel Shephard for suprivisor on road D;stric No. 4 or the Devil for all me. James Hanks was made road boss in 1841.

Ed

Daughter of William and Margaret Hanks in 1837

April 9, 1942 .

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
R.R. No. 7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis:

We certainly appreciate the very interesting document you have just forwarded and I think you are correct about associating the note with the tract of land in Indiana.

The county where the Lincolns and Hankses lived or at least some of them in Indiana was in Carter Township, named possibly for the same John Carter and we do know that the Carters in England were very closely associated.

With respect to Elizabeth Hanks who married Jubel Meador you are correct in questioning my statement in Lincoln Lore because I learned shortly after the publication that this Elizabeth Hanks, the daughter of William and Margaret Hanks were married in 1797.

You will please find enclosed one of the Lincoln Kinsmans in which I think you will be interested, which deals with John Hanks' information about Abraham Lincoln as well as the information Charles Hanks may have had. I will also send you upon publication the current issue of the Kinsman which discusses Dennis Hanks.

I hope some day you may come on and pay me a visit.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
L.A. Warren
Enc.

Director

April 3, 1945

Dear Dr. Warren- As soon as the Clerk Photos the papers named below ,I will send the whole bunch to you. Pleas draw a line through the ones you have .

Gatling and Martin vs Great Western R R. June 2, 1855.

Document signed Lincoln , May 31, 1855 File 1.

Overholt Vs County of Christian

Plea for Defendant filed on June 5, 1856 by Thornton and Lincoln File 187.

Ayers vs Dudley Printed form with Gallagher, Wait and Oglesby with Herndon written in. Document signed by Herndon, Gallagher, Wait and Oglesby. File 923.

Ayers vs Willard. Printed Form. Gallagher, Wait and Oglesby with Herndon written in. Document signed by Gallagher, Wait and Oglesby . File 924.

May 22, 1840 Abram Lincoln appointed Guardian Ad Litem of infant heirs of

James Mc Gee in De Witt County Court May Term, 1840

Micellaneous Papers Circuit Clerk, Macon County, Ill

In looking over some old deeds wished on me I find one to a lot in the Gatling Addition in Decatur.

Edwin D Davis. # 7 Decatur, Illinois.

East Junction U S 36 and State 121.

List of Lincoln Papers-draw line through those you have.

Petition for a new County(Macon) -signed by John Hanks, William Miller, William Hanks, Joseph Hanks, Charles Hanks and Jonithan B Brown and others.

Little Berry Nge vs James Cunningham No A ,100. Filed May 14,1838.

Said to have been written by Lincoln.- Old Lincoln Log Court House.

Answer of Abram Lincoln Guardian of Mary Elizabeth Finley.

Filed May 26,1840 . Original in Lincoln Room-Public Library.

Fellows vs A G Snyder and Co. Filed Sep. 19,1838.

Two bonds for costs signed A Lincoln- fine exampels.

Also plea signed Stuart and Lincoln.

William H H Hill vs Shelton G Whitley Filed Nov. 15,1850 A,1020.

Band for costs said to be written by Lincoln.-slander case.

Robert Hines vs David Adkins-slander. Filed June 4,1839. A203.

Plea written partly by Lincoln signed Emerson for Defendant.

A notation signed Douglass and Benodict-Stuart and Lincoln.

Jacob Rhodes vs Guy Helm Filed Nov.14,1010.

Plea written I think by Emerson signed Emerson and Lincoln for Ptf.

John M Barnes vs Abraham Marquess-over a mill.

Note by Judge David Davis saying he saw Lincoln in Springfield and told him how he would decide the case. December 25,1850. A 986.

Askins vs Deeds slander ~~filed~~ February 7,1839 A 203
#####

Band.for costs.

John Sawyers vs David Cordell -agreement Filed June 3, 1839 A 248.

Said to have been written by Lincoln.

John Sawyers was the grandfather of my friend Frank Sawyers.

Samuel L Wood ~~vs~~ Jacob Spangler "And the plaintiff doth the like"

Post and Lincoln Filed May 31, 1850. A, 990

over note in the estate of William Hanks Jr.

Lincoln's fee, \$5.

Sarah Ogden vs Jonathan Ogden-divourse filed Nov. 1851. A 1063.

Decree said to have been written by Lincoln.

Levi Meinsenhelter ~~vs~~ ates David Adkins, slander Filed June 4, 1839 A184.

Plea said to have been written by Lincoln signed Emerson.

Ephriem Cox vs William M Young May 26, 1840 A 284. filed .

Original in Lincoln Room.

Petticord vs Harrell and Emerson May 16, 1839 A 205

Springfield May 1, 1839 S A Douglass

John M Barnes vs Abraham Marquez May 30, 1850 A 986.

Signed Alin----

Guy Helm ~~vs~~ vs Henry Rhodes Filed Nov. 14, 1850 A1010

" And the said plaintiff doth the like" signed Emerson and Lincoln.

Daniel Peck vs Anderson Froman filed April 18 , 1853 A1159.

Signed twice Lincon and Thorpe.

Lincoln spelled Lincon.

13
May 9, 1945

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
Route #7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis:

I think inasmuch as you are having photostats made of all of the documents you had better send them all on and then I will have two copies made from each one, will return your originals and also an extra copy of each.

If you care to have me bear some of the expense for photostating aside from this I will be happy to do so.

I think you are doing are marvelous piece of work in gathering this information which will be so valuable in years to come and which will help to center an interest in Decatur as having a very prominent part in Abraham Lincoln's life. I feel that proper emphasis has never been placed upon the fact that Lincoln's address before the Editors' Convention in Decatur which from my viewpoint was just important as the Bloomington address.

Will be happy indeed to receive the photostats and will follow through on any way you may suggest.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

May 21, 1945

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
Route #7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis: :

The photostats came in good shape and I am just now going over them to have them recopied. Along the last of the week you should receive the whole consignment. It was very kind of you indeed to serve us in this way and we wish we might be of some financial help and would be happy to do so if you will advise us what we owe you for this work.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

June 8, 1945

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
Route #7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis:

At last we have found time to run off the photostats and we are sending them out today hoping they will reach you in good shape.

You certainly have discovered some very interesting material and we are happy to have it for our collection.

As I indicated in my letter, we are sending back your original photostats and also an extra copy of each one. Thank you sincerely for the use of the originals.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF MATTOON

The city of Mattoon was named in honor of William B. Mattoon, partner in the firm of Phelps, Mattoon & Barnes of Springfield, Mass., railroad builders. This company had the contract to build the Terre Haute & Alton R.R., now known as the Big Four division of the New York Central Railroad which links St. Louis and Indianapolis.

Work on construction of this railroad began in 1854, while construction was underway on the Illinois Central Railroad -- the "Main Line of Mid-America", which joined Chicago and Cairo. In the race to see which railroad would reach the crossing first in western Coles County, Mattoon's firm won out. The architects of the new town on the prairie in Eastern Illinois surveyed the site in December, 1854, selected a name in April, 1855, filed the plat in May and sold lots, and celebrated the arrival of the first train on June 9, 1855. The town grew rapidly, for the soil was rich in this area and settlers were pouring in from Kentucky and Tennessee toward the South and from the New England states.

Shortly after the founding of the city, several important personalities in history were to leave imprints on the memories of the pioneers. Abraham Lincoln spoke in the spring of 1858 from a window space of the Essex House--the well-known early hotel founded by the brilliant and eccentric Ebenezer Noyes. Late in that year, both Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas stayed overnight in Mattoon before their Charleston debate on September 18.

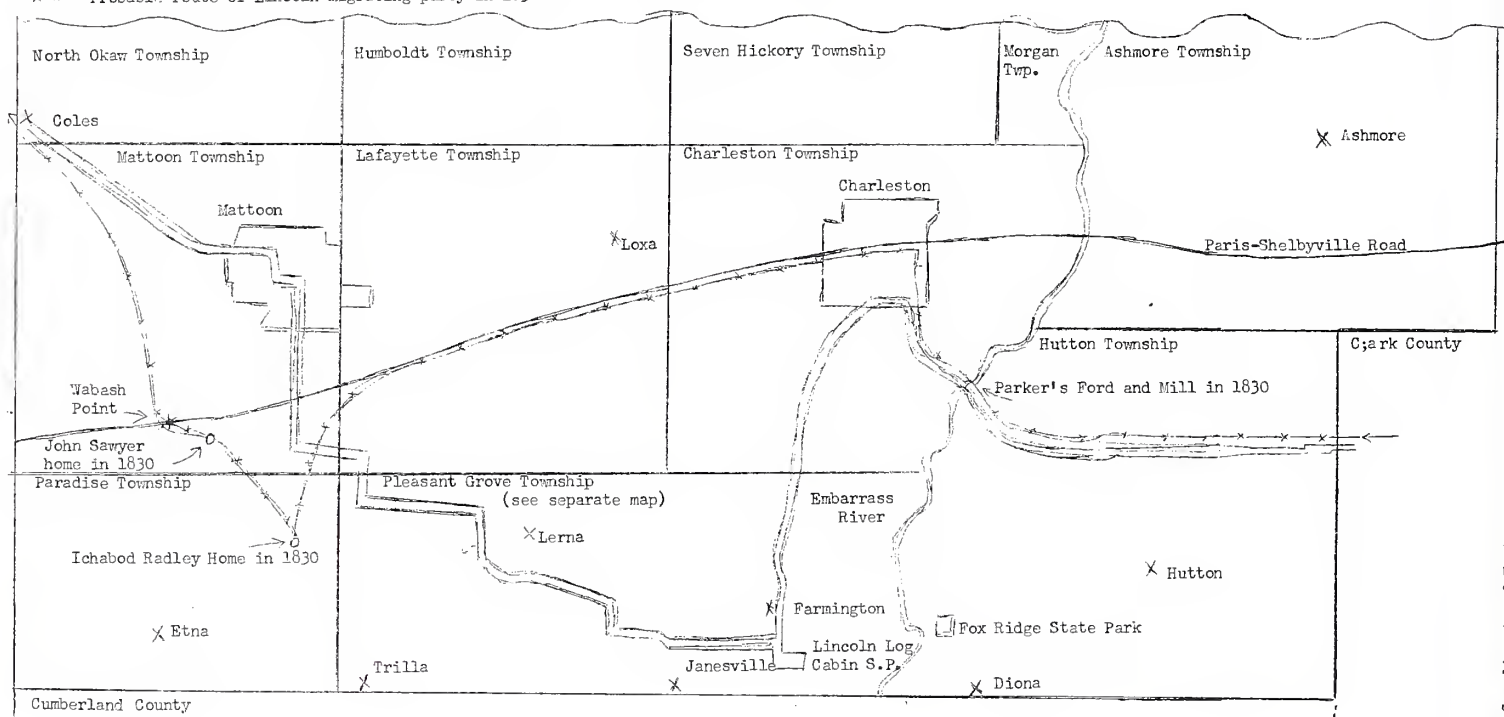
For one fleeting moment, Ulysses S. Grant used Mattoon as the bottom rung in his climb to immortality as a soldier in the Civil War. He came here on his first assignment to take charge of an unruly regiment. Later, he wrote tersely: "Entered the Volunteer service, as Col. of the 21st Regiment of Illinois Infantry, June 16th, 1861..." The then Col. Grant took charge of his regiment a short distance north and west of the present site of the Illinois Central Railroad station.

Earlier in the same year, in January, Lincoln had passed through Mattoon by railroad as he paid his last visit in Coles County -- to say farewell to Sarah Bush Lincoln south of Charleston.

Mattoon gained considerable notice near the turn of the century when it promoted the first "street fair" ever held in the State. These mammoth celebrations, held on the main street or "Broadway", attracted thousands of visitors from surrounding areas. The commercial values of such fairs were recognized by other cities which soon emulated the event originated in Mattoon.

Southern Coles County, with present cities, villages and townships

== Lincoln National Memorial Highway
 x-x- Probable route of Lincoln migrating party in 1830



Continuation of Eastern Illinois State Gazetteer of 1830

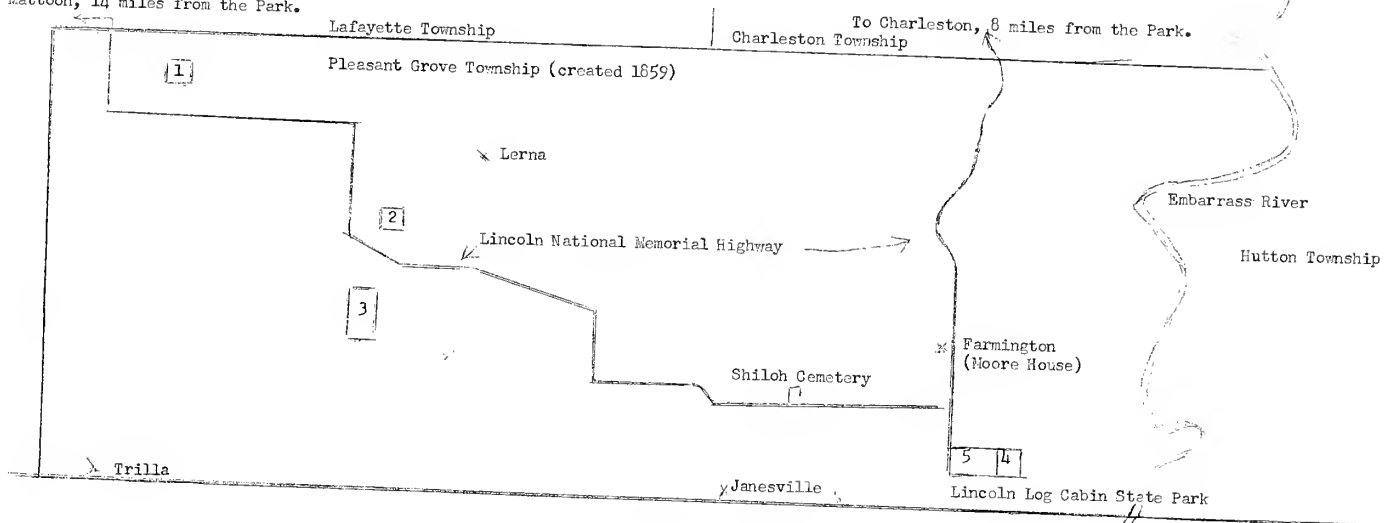
THE HOMES OF THOMAS LINCOLN

In Pleasant Grove Township, Coles County

1. Buck Grove, 1831-1834. Forty acres. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect. 5, T. 11 N., R. 8 E.
2. Muddy Point, 1834-1837. Forty acres. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect. 10, T. 11 N., R. 8 E.
3. The "Plummer Place," 1837. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect. 16, T. 11 N., R. 8 E. Eighty acres.
4. The "Abraham Forty," 1837-1840. Forty acres. NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect. 21, T. 11 N., R. 9 E.
5. Gooseneast Prairie, 1840-1851. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sect. 21, T. 11 N., R. 9 E. Eighty acres.

The Lincoln Log Cabin State Park consists of the Gooseneast Prairie farm and six acres on the western edge of the Abraham Forty.

To Mattoon, 14 miles from the Park.



(Compliments of Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston, Illinois)

LINCOLN LOG CABIN STATE PARK

The home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln.

Questions and answers

Is the cabin in the Park the original cabin? No. It is a very accurate reproduction built by Civilian Conservation Corps labor for the State of Illinois in 1935-1936.

What happened to the original cabin? John J. Hall, grandson of Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln, sold the cabin in 1891. It was taken to Chicago in 1892 for exhibition at the World's Fair. After the Fair it disappeared. Its fate is unknown.

Did Abraham Lincoln assist in building the original cabin? It is very unlikely that Abraham Lincoln had any part in building the cabin. It was built by Thomas Lincoln and his stepson John D. Johnston, the east part in 1837, the west part in 1840.

Did Abraham Lincoln ever visit his folks at this cabin? Yes. Frequently from 1840 to 1847 when he was active in the practice of law in this part of the State; less frequently after 1847.

Were the two parts of the cabin originally separate? Yes. The east part was built in 1837 on the 40 acres adjoining the 80-acre Thomas Lincoln farm on the east. The west part was built where the reproduction now stands in 1840. The east part was joined to it at that time.

What are the points of interest in the construction of the double cabin? Both cabins were built with the dove-tail notch to lock the logs together at the corners. This was a type of construction familiar to settlers from Kentucky. The chimney, with a double flue for two fireplaces, was placed in the center of the cabin instead of having chimneys at each end, in order that the heat from the chimney would help in heating the house. The east cabin is 16 by 18 feet in size, the west cabin is 16 feet square. The ladder arrangement to reach the loft or attic is different in the two cabins. The beams supporting the floor of the loft went through the walls and showed on the outside of the east cabin, but not on the west cabin. These features all were carefully reproduced in the cabin now standing in the Park.

Of what does the Park consist? The 80-acre farm owned by Thomas Lincoln from 1840 to his death in 1851 and six acres of the 40-acre plot to the east which was owned by Abraham Lincoln from 1841 to his death in 1865. The 86-acres were acquired by the State in 1929 and 1930. The Park with the completed cabin was dedicated in 1936.

How did Thomas Lincoln come to own the 80-acre Lincoln farm? He acquired it in 1840 from Rouben Moore, a neighbor, in exchange for 80 acres he owned adjoining it on the north. Thomas Lincoln owned his farm free from debt when he died in 1851.

Who owned the 40-acres to the east of the Lincoln farm? John D. Johnston, stepbrother of Abraham Lincoln, purchased it from the U.S. Government in 1837. He sold it to his stepfather Thomas Lincoln in 1840. Thomas sold it to his son Abraham Lincoln in 1841. Abraham Lincoln owned it until his death in 1865. John J. Hall, grandson of Mrs. Lincoln, acquired title to it in 1888. The State ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ acquired six acres of this plot in 1930.

How did Abraham Lincoln get title to the "east-40" in 1841? He gave his father \$200 and took title to the land to insure that his parents would always have a home. After his father's death in 1851, Abraham Lincoln refused to sell the land. He insisted that it be kept for the benefit of his stepmother. Because of his ownership of this plot it has become known as the "Abraham Forty."

Did Thomas Lincoln live on his farm until his death? Yes. He lived in the cabin on the farm until his death on January 17, 1851. His widow, Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln, died here on April 10, 1869.

Who owned the Lincoln farm after the death of Thomas Lincoln? Abraham Lincoln inherited it and sold it for one dollar to his stepbrother John D. Johnston. Johnston sold it for \$250 to his nephew, John J. Hall, who lived on it until the cabin was moved to Chicago in 1892. The sales to Johnston and to Hall both took place in 1851.

When did Abraham Lincoln last visit the Lincoln farm? On January 31, 1861, when he came to Coles County to say goodbye to his stepmother before going to Washington for his inauguration as President. John J. Hall was living in the cabin at that time. Mrs. Lincoln was staying with her daughter, the widowed Mrs. Matilda Moore, at the Moore House in Farmington, or Camboll, while Hall was repairing the cabin.

Compliments of Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston.

THE SHILOH CEMETERY, COLES COUNTY.

Containing the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln.

Questions and Answers.

When did Thomas Lincoln die?

On January 17, 1851, at his home which is now a State Park.

When did Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln die?

On April 10, 1869, at the same place.

When did Abraham Lincoln last visit his father's grave?

On January 31, 1861, on the occasion of his visit to the Moore House in Campbell to see his stepmother.

Who accompanied Lincoln to his father's grave?

Augustus H. Chapman of Charleston and probably Isaac W. Rodgers, a neighbor, and John J. Hall, Mrs. Lincoln's grandson.

Was Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln with him?

No. She remained at the Moore House with her daughter, Matilda. The statement on the State marker at the cemetery entrance that she accompanied him is in error.

Was the grave of Thomas Lincoln suitably marked when Lincoln visited in 1861?

No. There may have been a rough wood or stone marker without inscription.

When was the first monument erected over the Thomas Lincoln grave?

In 1880, with funds raised locally by George B. Balch and a contribution by Robert Todd Lincoln, grandson of Thomas Lincoln and son of Abraham.

Are the inscriptions on this original monument correct?

There is one error. Thomas Lincoln died on January 17, 1851, not on January 15. The date of his birth, January 6, 1778, probably is correct. Mrs. Lincoln's name does not appear on the 1880 monument.

Why was the 1880 monument replaced?

Because it was badly chipped by vandals, and because it did not bear Mrs. Lincoln's name.

When was the present monument erected?

It was dedicated on May 16, 1924, under the auspices of the Illinois Lions Club.

~~2~~

Who secured the present monument?

Mrs. Susan D. Baker, a local resident, was the leader of a local group interested in securing a suitable monument. In 1923 Mr. Wayne C. Townley, district president of the Illinois Lions Club, met Mrs. Baker and determined to see the monument secured. Through Mr. Townley's efforts the Lions Clubs in Illinois provided the necessary funds and he arranged for the construction and erection of the monument.

How old is the Shiloh cemetery?

It is one of the oldest in Coles County. It has been used as a graveyard since the late 1830's. It takes its name from the Shiloh Presbyterian Church. The present church building, thirty years old, replaced a structure erected in 1877. Before that, the cemetery was known as the "Gordon Graveyard" after a local family. The cemetery was privately owned until 1866, when $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres were deeded to the Trustees of the Gordon Graveyard by Isaac W. Rodgers.

Compiled by Charles H. Coleman, Department of Social Science, Eastern Illinois State College. July, 1953

Compliments of Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston.

THE FIRST MONUMENT OVER THE GRAVES OF THOMAS AND SARAH BUSH LINCOLN

The original monument, now standing some distance from the grave site in the Shiloh Cemetery, was erected in 1880 with funds raised locally, supplemented by a substantial donation by Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln and grandson of Thomas. Local interest in the erection of the monument was stimulated by a poem about the grave written by George B. Balch, poet and farmer, who resided in the neighborhood. Mr. Balch raised money for the monument by reciting his poem, for a paid admission, before interested groups in Mattoon and elsewhere. The poem was written in 1876 and was first published in the "LeBaron" History of Coles County (1879), p. 237.

The Grave of the Father of Abraham Lincoln

By George B. Balch

I

In a low, sweet vale, by a murmuring rill,
The pioneer's ashes are sleeping,
Where the white marble slabs are so lonely and still,
In silence their vigil are keeping.

II

On their sad, lonely faces are words of fame,
But none of them speak of his glory,
When the pioneer died, his age and his name,
No monument whispers the story.

III

No myrtle, nor ivy, nor hyacinth blows,
O'er the lonely grave where they laid him;
No cedar, nor holly, nor almond tree grows
Near the plebeian's grave to shade him.

IV

Bright evergreens wave over many a grave
O'er some bow the sad weeping willow,
But no willow trees nor evergreens wave
Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

V

Some are inhumed with the honors of state
And laid beneath temples to moulder;
The grave of the father of Lincoln the great,
Is known by a hillock and boulder.

VI

Let him take his long sleep, and gently rest,
With naught to disturb or wake him,
When the angels shall come to gather the blest
To Abraham's bosom, they'll take him.

Compliments of Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston.

THE MOORE HOUSE AT CAMPBELL (FARMINGTON), COLES COUNTY.

Where Abraham Lincoln visited his stepmother, Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln, on January 31, 1861. Now owned by the State of Illinois.

Questions and answers.

Is this the original house?

Yes. It was built by Reuben Moore at some time between 1852 and 1855.

Who was Reuben Moore?

He was an early settler in the neighborhood, coming from Ohio not later than 1837. Following the death of his first wife, Mary, in 1855, he married Mrs. Matilda Johnston Hall in 1856. Moore died in 1859. His widow continued to reside in the house.

Who was Mrs. Reuben Moore?

She was Matilda, the youngest child of Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln by her first husband, Daniel Johnston. Matilda's first husband was Squire Hall, who died in 1851. John J. Hall, who lived on the Thomas Lincoln farm (now the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park) from 1851 to his death in 1909, was her son.

Was the Moore House the permanent home of Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln in 1861?

No. Her permanent home was the farm her husband Thomas Lincoln had owned and where he died in 1851. Mrs. Lincoln lived with her grandson John J. Hall.

Why was Mrs. Lincoln staying with her daughter Matilda in January 1861?

The cabin at the Lincoln farm was being repaired by John J. Hall. The chimney had fallen in, according to tradition.

How did Abraham Lincoln get to the Moore House?

He drove down from Charleston in a buggy with Augustus H. Chapman, the husband of Mrs. Lincoln's granddaughter, Harriet Hanks Chapman. They arrived about 11 A.M. While waiting for dinner, Lincoln and Chapman visited the grave of Thomas Lincoln at Shiloh cemetery.

How was Lincoln entertained at the Moore House?

Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Lincoln, and the ladies of the village served a dinner to the President-elect and as many as could be seated in the small house. Lincoln was well acquainted in the neighborhood. His friends and acquaintances greeted him at the Moore House. The village school was dismissed and Lincoln shook hands with all the children.

Did Lincoln say goodbye to his stepmother at the Moore House?

No, when he returned to Charleston with Chapman that afternoon, Mrs. Lincoln went with them. Both Lincoln and his stepmother spent the night of January 31 at the Chapman home. This was Lincoln's last night in Coles County. When Lincoln said goodbye to his stepmother, early in the morning of February 1, she expressed a fear for his safety, according to tradition. She feared his

enemies would kill him. He is reported to have said to her, "No, no, Mama, they will not do that. Trust in the Lord and all will be well. We will see each other again." He was wrong. On February 11, Lincoln left Illinois for the last time, to return in his coffin.

Is the village in which the Moore House is located named Farmington or Campbell?

Campbell, when the village was laid out in 1852 the local inhabitants named it Farmington. There is another Farmington in Illinois, so the name was changed to Campbell, after a local family. This name was used as early as 1859. The name Farmington continues in local use. In 1861 the village was much larger than it is now. It is not incorporated.

Compiled by Charles H. Coleman, Department of Social Science, Eastern Illinois State College. July, 1953.

Biographical sketch of Thomas Lincoln to the year 1831, when he settled in Coles County, Illinois, in the words of his son Abraham Lincoln.

(Taken from Lincoln's autobiography sent to Jesse W. Fell on December 20, 1859, and from the campaign autobiographical sketch of June 1860. Complete Works, vol. III, pp. 511-512; vol. IV, pp. 60-64. Paraphrased.)

Thomas Lincoln was born in Rockingham County, Virginia /in 1778/, whither his ancestors had come from Berks County, Pennsylvania. His father Abraham came to Kentucky about 1781 or 1782 /1782/ where he was killed by Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, about the year 1784 /1786/, when Thomas was but six /eight/ years of age. He left a widow /Bathsheba/, three sons /Mordecai, Josiah, Thomas/, and two daughters /Mary, Nancy/.

Thomas, the youngest son, by the early death of his father, and very narrow circumstances of his mother, even in childhood was a wandering laboring-boy, and grew up literally without education. He never did more in the way of writing than to bunglingly sign his own name. Before he was grown he passed one year as a hired hand with his uncle Isaac /Lincoln/ on the Watauga, a branch of the Holston River /in Tennessee/. Getting back into Kentucky, and having reached his twenty-eighth year, he married Nancy Hanks in the year 1806. She was born in Virginia /about the year 1783/.

Their first child, a daughter /Sarah/, was born at Elizabethtown, in 1807. Their son Abraham was born February 12, 1809, near where Hodgenville now is, then in Hardin County. There was a younger son /Thomas/ who died in infancy. /Sarah, the daughter, died in Indiana in 1828/.

Before leaving Kentucky, Thomas Lincoln resided /1811-1816/ on Knob Creek, on the road from Bardstown, Kentucky, to Nashville, Tennessee, at a point three or three and a half miles south or southeast of Atherton's Ferry, on the Rolling Fork. From this place he removed to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in the autumn of 1816, his son Abraham then being in his eighth year. This removal was partly on account of slavery, but

chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles in Kentucky. This was about the time the State came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. He settled in an unbroken forest, and the clearing away of surplus wood was the great task ahead.

In the autumn of 1818 October 5 his wife died, and a year afterward he married Mrs. Sally Johnston Sarah Bush Johnston at Elizabethtown, Kentucky on December 2, 1819. She was a widow with three children Sarah Elizabeth, Matilda, John of her first marriage. There were no children of this second marriage. His residence continued at the same place in Indiana till 1830.

March 1, 1830, his son Abraham having just completed his twenty-first year, Thomas Lincoln and family, with the families of the two daughters and sons-in-law of his wife Dennis Hanks and Squire Hall, left the old homestead in Indiana and came to Illinois. Their mode of conveyance was wagons drawn by ox-teams, and his son Abraham drove one of the teams. They reached the county of Macon, and stopped there sometime within the same month of March. Thomas Lincoln and family settled a new place on the north side of the Sangamon River, at the junction of the timberland and prairie, about ten miles westerly from Decatur. Here they built a log cabin, into which they removed, and made sufficient of rails to fence ten acres of ground, fenced and broke the ground, and raised a crop of sown corn upon it the same year.

The sons-in-law of Thomas were temporarily settled in other places in the county. In the autumn all hands were greatly afflicted with ague and fever, to which they had not been used, and by which they were greatly discouraged, so much so that they determined on leaving the county. They remained, however, through the succeeding winter, which was the winter of the very celebrated "deep snow" of Illinois.

Thomas Lincoln with his own family and others mentioned, in pursuance of this intention, in the spring of 1831, removed from Macon to Coles County. John D. Johnston, his stepson, went to them, and his son Abraham stopped indefinitely and for the first time, as it were, by himself at New Salem, in July 1831.

Diagrams showing Hanks, Hall, Johnston relationships to Abraham Lincoln

Joseph Hanks (great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln)

Nancy Hanks (aunt of Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln)
married Levi Hall

Dennis Hanks

Squire Hall married Matilda Johnston

John Johnston Hall married Elizabeth Taylor

Nancy Hall married John Thomas

Clarence Hall (Thomas) Born 1892. Now living near the
Lincoln Log Cabin State Park.

Sarah Bush married (1) Daniel Johnston; (2) Thomas Lincoln (father of Abraham Lincoln)
No children by this second marriage

Sarah Elizabeth Johnston m. Dennis Hanks

5 daughters
3 sons

Matilda Johnston m. (1) Squire Hall
(2) Reuben Moore

5 daughters 1 son John Davis Johnston
3 sons m. (1) Mary Barker
(2) Nancy J. Williams
6 sons 1 son
1 daughter

Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln had 25 grandchildren. Abraham Lincoln was closely associated with two of them:

Harriet Hanks, daughter of Sarah Elizabeth and Dennis Hanks, lived with the Lincolns in Springfield for a year before her marriage in 1847 to Augustus H. Chapman. Abraham Lincoln spent his last night in Coles County at the Chapman home in Charleston.

John Johnston Hall, son of Matilda and Squire Hall, purchased the Thomas Lincoln farm after Thomas' death in 1851. Mrs. Sarah Lincoln, his grandmother, made her home with him.

What was the relationship of these persons to Abraham Lincoln?

Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln was his stepmother.

Sarah Elizabeth, her daughter, was his stepsister.

Matilda her daughter was his stepsister.

Her son John was his stepbrother.

Dennis Hanks was his second cousin.

Squire Hall was his second cousin.

Harriet Hanks was his stepniece and also his third cousin.

John Johnston Hall was his stepnephew and also his third cousin.

Reuben Moore, Mary Barker, Nancy Jane Williams and Augustus H. Chapman were not related to Abraham Lincoln.

Clarence Hall is the great-great-grandson of Abraham Lincoln's great-aunt

Nancy Hanks Hall.

Abraham Lincoln and Coles County

A Chronology

- 1830 March Thomas Lincoln family, including Abraham, passed through Coles County on way to Macon County, Illinois.
- 1831 July Abraham visited his father at Buck Grove farm in western Coles County, Wrestled with Dan Needham.
- 1835 December Abraham visited his father at Muddy Point farm, before attending session of the legislature.
- 1840 Fall Abraham Lincoln made a political speech in Charleston in the campaign of 1840. He supported W. H. Harrison, the Whig candidate for President.
- 1841 May Abraham Lincoln made the first of many visits to Charleston to practice law at the Coles County court house.
- 1841 October Lincoln paid his father \$200 for the "east forty" of the Lincoln farm at Goosenest Prairie.
- 1845 May Lincoln gave his father a \$35 law fee earned in Charleston.
- 1847 October Lincoln a lawyer in the "Matson slave case" in Charleston.
- 1848 December Congressman Lincoln, in Washington, sends his father \$20 in response to a request.
- 1849 May Lincoln visited his father, who was ill.
- 1851 May Lincoln visited his stepmother following the death of his father in January.
- 1851 August Lincoln sold the Lincoln farm, which he had inherited, to his stepbrother John D. Johnston for one dollar.
- 1851 November Lincoln refused to sell the "east forty". Insisted it be kept for the benefit of his stepmother.
- 1856 August Lincoln spoke in Charleston in behalf of John C. Fremont, the Republican candidate in the presidential election.
- 1858 September Lincoln spoke at Mattoon (Sept. 7)
Fourth Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston (Sept. 18)
- 1861 January Lincoln's last visit to Coles County to see his stepmother.
- 1864 November President Lincoln released prisoners arrested as a result of the "Charleston Riot" of March 28, 1864.

Locations in Coles County Associated with Abraham Lincoln

Although never a Coles County resident, Abraham Lincoln was a frequent visitor to the county from 1840 to 1861. Prior to 1840 there are only three probable instances of his being in the county: when he crossed it in March, 1830, when he visited his folks at Buck Grove in July, 1831, and when Usher F. Linder saw him in Charleston in the late fall of 1835. Beginning about 1841, following the addition of Shelby County to the eighth judicial circuit in February, 1841, Lincoln came to Coles County with some degree of regularity. There were three reasons for this: family, professional, and political. The presence of his father and stepmother in the county was a strong reason for Lincoln to accept legal cases in Charleston, since his professional visits gave him an opportunity to see them. On at least three occasions (1840, 1856, 1858), Lincoln visited the county primarily as a political campaigner.

It is manifestly impossible to list all of the locations in Coles County where Lincoln may have been. The following list includes the places which we know he visited, or for which there is a tradition of such visits. These places are listed by present townships.

Hutton Township

The Sargent homestead near Saulsbury, located on what was the "old York and Charleston trail" in the 1830's and 1840's. It is a tradition in the Sargent family that Lincoln stopped here on two or more occasions.

About three miles east of the "Five Mile House" (which is on State route 130), and a little north, near the Charleston-Westfield road, was the location of the James Rennels cabin, built in 1832 by a recent arrival from Kentucky. In 1926 this cabin, in an excellent state of preservation, was donated by Joel R. Rennels, son of James Rennels, to the Sally Lincoln Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution. It was moved to Morton Park in Charleston, where it serves as the Chapter House of the Sally Lincoln Chapter. A porch, a new chimney, and a "lean-to" room on one side have been added to the original rectangular cabin. According to Rennels family tradition, Abraham Lincoln visited the cabin more than once. One hundred years ago its location was near the old York-Charleston road, which was the route between Charleston and Marshall in Clark County. Traveling along this road, Lincoln may well have stopped at the Rennels home as well as that of Stephen Sargent, mentioned above.

Charleston Township (and city)

Parker's Ford and Mill (Blakeman's Ford), near the present bridge on route 130 over the Embarrass River. March 10, 1830.

Locations - 2

A site north of the Big Four tracks, at about Fourteenth Street, in the city of Charleston, where Lincoln may have made a political speech in 1840, and possibly again in 1856.

The Courthouse at Charleston (rebuilt 1898-1899). Lincoln was in this building many times in connection with his legal practice.

The fairgrounds at Charleston. Site of the Lincoln-Douglas debate. September 18, 1858.

Capitol House or Johnson Tavern at Sixth and Monroe streets, now site of Linder Building. Lincoln visited here on various occasions. Also Union House or Bunnell Tavern, another hotel, across the street where the Charleston National Bank now stands. Lincoln's headquarters on the day of the debate with Douglas was at the Capitol House. The Union House served Douglas and his friends.

Mount and Hill Hall, at Fifth and Monroe streets, on site of present location of the Charleston Daily News. Lincoln spoke here at least once, January 31, 1861.

The office of the local attorneys with whom Lincoln practiced law in Charleston. That of Usher F. Linder was located in the rear of a building on the site now occupied by the Panas building on Monroe street, north side of the square.

The homes of various Charleston friends, including:

Thomas A. Marshall, Monroe street, between Fourth and Fifth streets. Lincoln was a guest here on various occasions, including the evening following the debate. The Marshall home at the time of Lincoln's visit in 1861 was near Tenth and Harrison streets. He spent the night of January 30 with the Marshalls.

Augustus H. Chapman lived on the north side of Jackson street, between Fourth and Fifth streets. A recently added wing to the Christian Church building occupies a part of the lot. Here Lincoln visited frequently, including his last night in Charleston, that of January 31, 1861. Chapman did not own this property.

Dennis Hanks, who lived in Charleston during most of the period prior to the Civil War. In 1834 Hanks built a house on the South Side of Jackson street, five lots west of Fourth street. He lived there for at least ten years. In 1861 Hanks was living on the west side of the public square, second floor, where Lincoln visited him.

Street names in Charleston were changed in 1895. The names given here are those now in use.

Pleasant Grove Township

Buck Grove home of Thomas Lincoln, near the northwest corner of the township. Here Lincoln visited in July 1831.

Muddy Point home of Thomas Lincoln, about one mile southwest of Lerna. Probably visited by Lincoln in the late fall of 1835.

Goosenest Prairie farm of Thomas Lincoln, including the eastern forty acres of land owned by Abraham Lincoln after 1841. He visited here frequently from 1840 to 1861.

Moore house in Farmington. Home of the widow of Reuben Moore, where Lincoln had his last visit with his stepmother on January 31, 1861.

Locations - 3

Isaac Rodgers home, ^{east}~~west~~ of the Shiloh cemetery. Lincoln may have stopped here on his way to the cemetery on January 31, 1861.

Shiloh cemetery, where Lincoln visited his father's grave on January 31, 1861.

Paradise Township

Ichabod Radley home may have been near the northeast corner of this township. The Lincoln party probably spent a night here on their way across the county in March 1830. The night of March 11/12.

Mattoon Township (and City)

John Sawyer home, near Wabash Point. Visited by Lincoln in 1830 and 1831 and probably on later occasions.

Wabash Point, southwest of the city of Mattoon. Visited by Lincoln in 1830 and 1831 and also on numerous other occasions when going from or to Charleston and Shelbyville.

Waddill's Tavern and Relay House, formerly the Langston Relay Station, on the Shelbyville Road, a short distance west of Wabash Point, and 300 yards east of Old Paradise, most important westside settlement before the founding of Mattoon in 1855. Probably visited by Lincoln on numerous occasions while using this road. He may have stayed overnight here on more than one occasion.

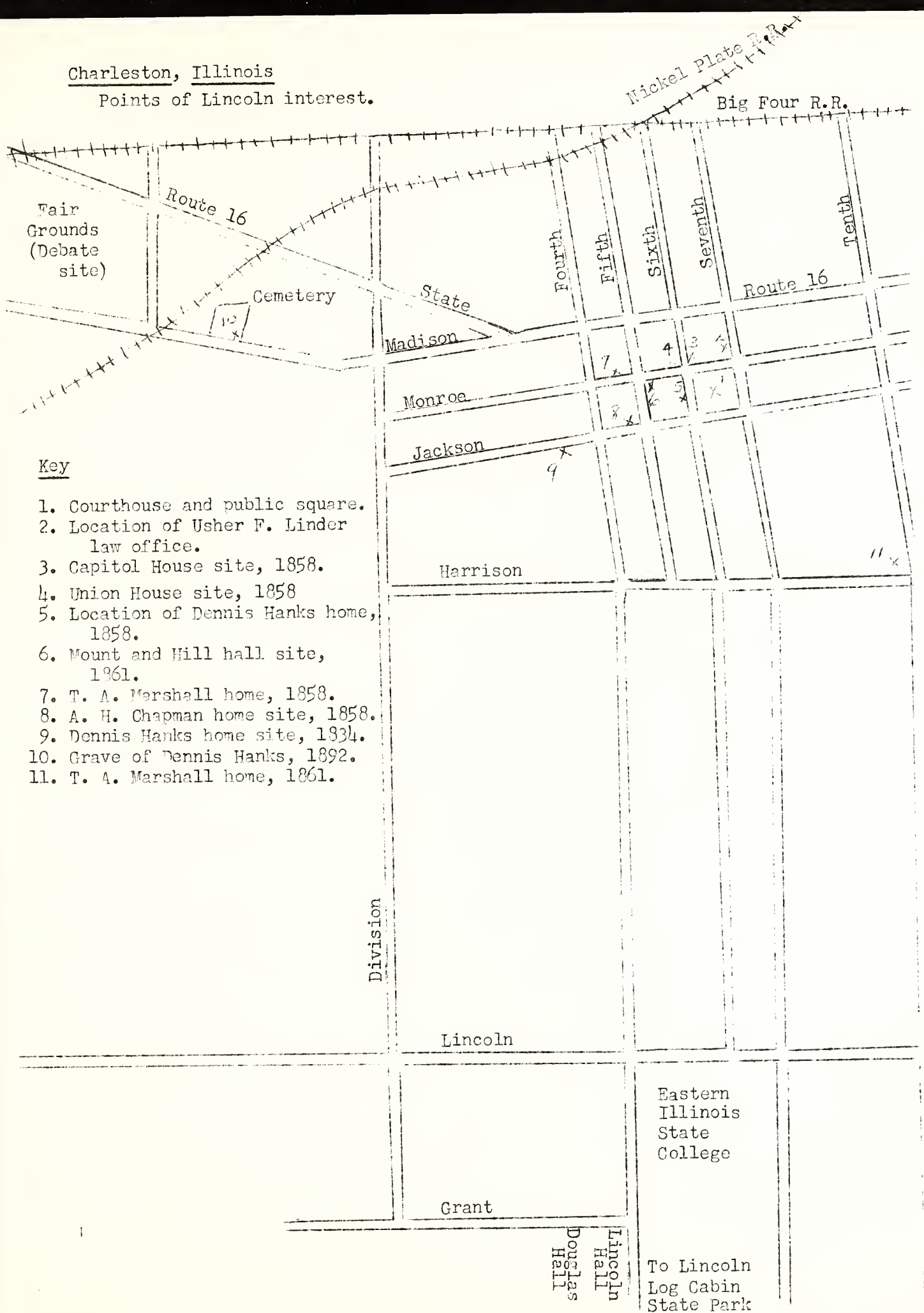
Elisha Linder home, about one mile north of Wabash Point. Linder was a relative of the Sawyers and a cousin of Usher F. Linder, with whom Lincoln practiced law in Charleston. Probably visited by Lincoln on more than one occasion.

Essex House in the city of Mattoon near the crossing of the two railroads. Lincoln was here on more than one occasion during the years 1856-1861.

Pennsylvania House in the city of Mattoon. Site now occupied by Bergner's store. Lincoln spent the night of September 17, 1858 here.

Charleston, Illinois

Points of Lincoln interest.



Key

1. Courthouse and public square.
2. Location of Usher F. Linder law office.
3. Capitol House site, 1858.
4. Union House site, 1858
5. Location of Dennis Hanks home, 1858.
6. Mount and Hill hall site, 1861.
7. T. A. Marshall home, 1858.
8. A. H. Chapman home site, 1858.
9. Dennis Hanks home site, 1834.
10. Grave of Dennis Hanks, 1892.
11. T. A. Marshall home, 1861.

Highlights in the history of Charleston, Illinois

- 1826 William Cullom built first house within limits of present city.
- 1830 Charles Morton opened first store and first mill.
Lincoln family passed through on way of Macon County (March 11).
Coles County created (December 25).
- 1831 Following the first county election (February 5), county commissioners chose "Coles Court House" (Charleston) as the county seat. Log courthouse erected.
- Postoffice established in Morton's store in Coles Court House (March 31).
- First court held at Coles Court House (April 12).
- Survey of the "town of Charleston" (April 23). Town plat recorded (June 4).
- 1835 Log courthouse replaced by a brick building.
- 1837 First school building erected.
- 1839 Charleston incorporated as a town (March 2).
- 1840 First newspaper, the Charleston Plaindealer.
- 1841 First Coles County fair.
- 1847 Matson slave case tried in Charleston. Lincoln one of the lawyers.
- 1855 First railroad, the Terre Haute and Alton.
- 1858 Fourth Lincoln-Douglas debate (September 18).
- 1861 Lincoln's last visit to Charleston (January 30, 31).
- 1864 Charleston Riot between soldiers and Copperheads (March 28).
- 1872 Charleston incorporated as a city (October 12).
- 1880 Water filtration plant and pumping station built.
- 1894 Street paving commenced.
- 1895 Streets renamed.
- 1896 Public Library established.
- 1897 Embarrass River dammed.
- 1898 Courthouse rebuilt.
- 1899 Eastern Illinois State Normal School opened (now Eastern Illinois State College).
- 1912 Opera House burned.
- 1917 Tornado (May 26).

- 1919 Brown shoe factory opened.
- 1921 Normal School became the Eastern Illinois State Teachers College.
- 1945 Commission government adopted.
- 1946 Midstate Foundry opened.
- 1947 Lake Charleston created.
Teachers College became the Eastern Illinois State College.
- 1948 Community Unit school district created.
- 1953 Water tower erected.
Construction started on new High School building.
Funds raised for Charleston Memorial Hospital.

The Matson Slave Case, October 1847

The most dramatic and controversial case in which Abraham Lincoln appeared as an attorney in the Coles County Circuit Court at Charleston was the "Matson Slave Case," in October 1847. The case involved the freedom of a negro woman, Jane Bryant, and her four children. They were held as slaves in Coles County by Robert Matson of Kentucky, who brought them from Kentucky to work on his Coles County farm.

Jane appealed to two abolitionists living in nearby Oakland in this county. They were Gideon Mathew Ashmore and Dr. Hiram Rutherford, who gave refuge to Jane and her children. Upon complaint by Matson, the negroes were taken by the sheriff and lodged in the county jail. The case came before the court when Ashmore applied for a writ of habeas corpus to secure their freedom.

Both the judges and the lawyers in the case were men of well-recognized ability. Chief Justice William Wilson, of the Illinois Supreme Court, presided, assisted at his request by his colleague Justice Samuel H. Treat. Usher F. Linder of Charleston, assisted by Abraham Lincoln of Springfield and Thomas A. Marshall of Charleston, represented Matson. Ashmore, acting in behalf of the Bryant family, was represented by Orlando B. Ficklin of Charleston and Charles H. Constable of Marshall. Both Lincoln and Ficklin were members of Congress, and Linder was a former Illinois Attorney General.

The proceedings were marked by eloquent pleas for the freedom of the negroes by Ficklin and Constable, and by a vigorous defense of Matson's claim by Linder. Lincoln, in Matson's behalf, spoke only on the technical points of law involved, rather than on the justice of Matson's claim. The result was that Jane and her children received their freedom, the court ordering "that they be and remain free . . . from henceforth and forever."

How did Abraham Lincoln find himself defending the claim of a Kentucky slave owner to hold slaves in the free state of Illinois? Probably it was a matter of professional ethics. Ashmore asked Lincoln to serve on his side of the case, but he reluctantly refused to do so, for he already had discussed the case with his friend Linder and felt under obligation not to appear on the other side. Lincoln continued as an associate of Linder in the case.

This was one case Lawyer Lincoln was not sorry to lose!

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate at Charleston

The fourth of the seven debates between Abraham Lincoln and Senator Stephen A. Douglas was held at Charleston on Saturday, September 18, 1858. About twelve thousand people assembled at the Coles County Fairgrounds to hear the rivals for a seat in the United States Senate.

Both Lincoln and Douglas (with Mrs. Douglas) spent the night before the debate at Mattoon, Lincoln at the Pennsylvania House and the Douglasses at the Essex House. Mrs. Lincoln was not with Mr. Lincoln.

The morning of the debate Republican and Democratic processions came from Mattoon to Charleston, by separate routes. Lincoln rode with his procession, while Douglas came on to Charleston by train and rode out to meet the Democratic parade west of the city. Lincoln's headquarters in Charleston were at the Capitol House, where he was received with a welcoming address by Henry P. H. Bromwell, local Republican leader. Lincoln ate dinner at the Capitol House before the debate. Douglas and his friends used the Union House, or Bunnell Tavern, across the street from the Capitol House. It was at the Union House that Senator Douglas was welcomed to Charleston by Orlando B. Ficklin, former congressman. Both hotels were at the northwest corner of the public square.

The debate opened at 2:45 p.m.. Lincoln spoke first and was introduced by Dr. William M. Chambers of Charleston. After Lincoln spoke for an hour he was followed by Douglas for one hour and a half, with Lincoln concluding the debate with a half hour rejoinder.

After the debate, Lincoln returned to the Capitol House before visiting the home of his second cousin, Dennis Hanks, who lived at this time in a second floor apartment on the west side of the square. From the Hankses, Lincoln went to the home of Augustus H. Chapman, Hanks' son-in-law, where he had supper. Chapman lived on what is now Jackson

street, between Fourth and Fifth streets. Senator and Mrs. Douglas were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Picklin.

After supper both parties held meetings. The Democrats met in the courthouse, where Usher F. Linder, candidate for the state senate, spoke, and the Republicans listened to Richard J. Oglesby, candidate for Congress, at the southwest corner of the square. Following this rally on the square, Lincoln and the other Republican leaders went to the home of Thomas A. Marshall, state senate candidate, for a conference and reception which lasted until midnight. Lincoln spent the night with the Marshalls. The Marshall home at this time was located on what is now Monroe street, between Fourth and Fifth streets.

The next day, Sunday, Lincoln remained in Charleston, visiting with the Hankses and the Chapmans, and with his stepmother, Mrs. Sarah Bush Lincoln, who was visiting at the Chapman home at that time. Lincoln spent Sunday night with the Chapmans. The next morning he went by carriage to Sullivan, where he was to speak that afternoon.

The Charleston Riot, March 28, 1864

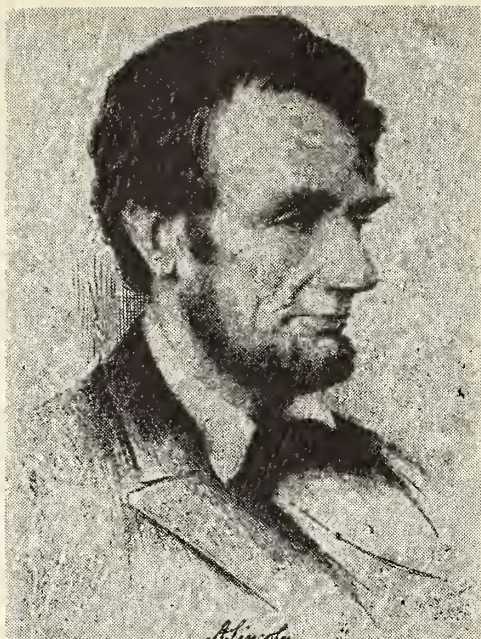
In the spring of 1864 there had been bad blood for some time between Coles County soldiers and those local civilians who were opposed to the Lincoln administration. Monday, March 28, proved to be a day to settle old scores. The town was crowded and liquor was plentiful. It was "court day," and also Democratic Congressman John R. Eden was scheduled to speak. Furthermore, it was the last day of furlough for the men of the 54th Illinois Infantry. Companies C and G included many Coles County men in town for a last fling before rejoining their regiment at the Mattoon rendezvous.

The "Charleston Riot" which resulted from this explosive mixture was the bloodiest affair of its kind in the North during the Civil War. It was a grudge fight, not a draft riot, such as that in New York City in July, 1862. Six soldiers and three civilians were killed, and four soldiers and eight civilians were wounded. All but one of the soldier casualties were from the 54th Illinois. The regimental surgeon, Major Shubal York of Paris, Edgar County, was killed, and the commander, Colonel Greenville M. Mitchell of Charleston, was wounded. The local sheriff, John H. O'Hair, was a Democrat, and among those taking part in the riot were a number of his friends and relatives. After the shooting started he took command of the irate "Copperheads" and led them out of town, thus ending the bloodshed. Sheriff O'Hair and a cousin, Elsberry Hanks, fled to Canada.

The military authorities arrested twenty-nine men for taking part in the riot, and took them to Camp Yates, near Springfield. Of these, thirteen were soon released, one died in custody, and fifteen were confined in Fort Delaware, until November 4, 1864, when President Lincoln ordered their return to Coles County, those indicted by the grand jury to be turned over to the sheriff, and the others to be discharged. Thus did Lincoln vindicate the civil authority over the military.

The grand jury of Coles County had indicted fourteen men for taking part in the Charleston Riot, but only two of them were ever brought to trial. In a trial at Effingham, on a change of venue, in December 1864, they were acquitted. Thus no court sentence was ever given to any person for participation in the Charleston Riot.

Despite the tragedy of the Charleston Riot, Coles County made an excellent record during the Civil War. From 1861 to 1863, the county furnished 1,870 volunteers for the Union army, or 531 more than its quotas under the various calls for troops. The total for the entire war was 2,741 men. Volunteering made drafting unnecessary. In the election of 1864 Lincoln carried Coles County by 2,210 votes to 1,555 for McClellan.



FALL TOUR

to the

Coles County Lincoln Country

Saturday, October 10, 1953

Annual meeting of the

Illinois State Historical Society

Mattoon and Charleston

Oct. 9-10, 1953

Booklet courtesy of

Eastern Illinois State College

at Charleston



